

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 5, 2005. The time period for responding to the outstanding Office Action has been extended to May 5, 2005 by the accompanying petition for one month extension of time. Applicant amends claims 6, 9-11, 15 and 18-19 and adds claims 21-25. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 10-13, 15-17, 19 and 20 over U.S. Patent No. 6,338,082 to Schneider (the Schneider patent) taken in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,321,242 to Fogg, et al. (the Fogg patent). The Office Action rejects claims 6-9, 14 and 18 as obvious over the Schneider patent taken in view of the Fogg patent further taken in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,751,956 to Kirsch (the Kirsch patent). Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Summary

The present application describes a URL forwarding system that receives a URL, input by a user, that identifies a website or other desired content. The domain name system (DNS) associates the URL with a first IP address of a first server that performs URL forwarding functions. The first server analyzes the URL to determine if URL forwarding is set up for that particular URL. When URL forwarding is set up for the URL, the first server returns a message that includes a first destination address, which is the IP address of the server that stores the content associated with the URL.

This application's claims are patentable over the cited art because they define a system that translates a URL request into a destination server address, different from the first IP address the domain name system gives for that URL, by retrieving information about the destination server address from a file stored on a file server. The claims of the application also distinguish over the cited art by defining the use of a domain management interface that allows a user to modify the information

identifying which destination server address is returned in response to the URL request. None of the cited art provides a facility for changing the association between a URL and a destination server address. Nor does the cited art check to determine if a user has rights to change the association between a URL and an IP address.

The Schneider Patent Does Not Describe URL Forwarding

The Schneider patent describes aspects of the domain name system (DNS) and does not describe a system that returns an IP address different from that designated by domain name system in response to a URL request.

The Office Action states in its paragraph 13 that the Schneider patent describes:

a first web server adapted to receive a request for a first URL and return a message associated with the first URL request, the first URL identifying a first IP address of the first web server according to a domain name system (Figure 1 [block 120']; column 9, lines 38-56, i.e. "One aspect of the present invention includes a specific type of server system 120 called a DNS server system 120' which stores in memory a DNS database 124 having DNS records that translates domain names into IP addresses and vice versa.").

This statement indicates that the DNS server 120' corresponds to the first web server recited in claim 1. Contrary to this statement, the DNS server 120' cannot be the first web server recited in claim 1 of the application. This is because the DNS is not itself addressed using the DNS (such a DNS, which would require access to the DNS to find the DNS, would be inoperative).

Thus, because the DNS servers are not addressed according to the IP addresses stored in the DNS, the DNS server 120' cannot meet claim 1's recitation of "the first URL identifying a first IP address of the first web server according to

the domain name system" or DNS. This is because the claimed first IP address of the first web server is that stored by the DNS which means that the first web server cannot itself be a DNS server. Consequently, the Schneider patent does not teach the "first web server" limitation. Because the other cited art does not suggest altering the fundamental DNS in a manner that it could meet this "first web server" limitation, claim 1 distinguishes over the art of record and all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 further distinguishes over the Schneider patent because the Schneider patent does not meet the "file server" limitation. The Office Action states that the "file server" limitation of claim 1 is also met by the DNS. Specifically, the Office Action states that the "file server" limitation is met by the following statement from the Schneider patent:

"The DNS is a distributed database (of mappings) 124 implemented in a hierarchy of DNS servers (name servers) 120' and an application-layer protocol that allows hosts and name servers to communicate in order to provide the translation service" and "Instead, the mappings 124 are distributed across many name servers 120' " OR "web pages being retrieved").

This aspect of the Office Action's position is also incorrect.

Claim 1 specifies that the "first web server" is located at a first IP address associated with the URL and the DNS stores that association between the URL and the first IP address. The "file server" limitation recites in part that "the first web server return[s] the first destination address as part of the message in response to the first URL request." This would not happen if, as suggested by the Office Action, the "file server" limitation corresponded to the Schneider patent's DNS servers 120' because those DNS servers would always return the first IP address associated with the URL request in the DNS and would never return the first destination address of a destination server different from the first web server. Consequently, the DNS

servers 120' of the Schneider patent cannot meet the "file server" limitation of claim 1 and so claim 1 distinguishes over the Schneider patent for this additional reason.

Modifying the Schneider Patent in Light of the Fogg Patent Would Not Result in a System that Allows Altering the Relationship between a URL and an IP Address

The Office Action concedes in its paragraph 14 that the Schneider patent does not disclose the "second web server" limitation of claim 1. Contrary to the Office Action's position, it would not have been obvious to modify the Schneider patent to provide a second web server to alter first destination addresses. In essence, the Office Action states that it would have been obvious to allow the link-repair system of the Fogg patent to alter the records of the DNS. The DNS does not allow such access to the DNS database. Rather, that kind of access is limited to accredited registrars so that the reliability of the DNS is maintained. Because the Schneider patent only describes the DNS, it would not have been obvious to modify the Schneider patent's system to allow the Fogg patent's relinking system direct access to the DNS servers 120' of the Schneider patent. This stands in contrast to the system defined by claim 1, where the second web server interacts with the file server, which is not a DNS server.

Moreover, the Fogg patent teaches nothing about altering the association between a URL and an IP address. Rather, the Fogg patent teaches altering the URL within a hypertext link to relink to a new URL after a web page has been moved. See Fogg patent at column 4, lines 38-58 ("Upon receiving the re-link message the feeder webmaster updates the appropriate links on the feeding site by either **changing the link URL or removing the link** (240). (emphasis added)). The Fogg patent does not describe altering the relationship between a URL and the IP address associated with the URL. Consequently, even if it were obvious to modify the Schneider patent in light of the Fogg patent, it would not result in the

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system defined by claim 1 because neither the Schneider patent nor the Fogg patent teach altering the relationship between a URL and an IP address.

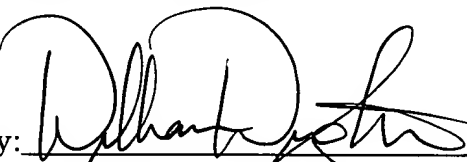
Consequently, the cited combination of references does not meet the limitations of claim 1 and so claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-25 distinguish over the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 789-5100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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